Claims:

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1. An ellipsoidal polarizing plate comprising a first optically anisotropic layer, a second optically anisotropic layer, a polarizing membrane and a transparent protective film, wherein the first optically anisotropic layer has an angel of 5° to 85° between the direction giving the maximum refractive index and the layer plane, and wherein the second optically anisotropic layer is optically positive and uniaxial, and the second optically anisotropic layer has an angel of 0° to 5° between the direction giving the maximum refractive index and the layer plane.

2. The ellipsoidal polarizing plate as defined in claim 1, wherein the first optically anisotropic layer comprises rod-like liquid crystal molecules.

3. The ellipsoidal polarizing plate as defined in claim 2, wherein the rod-like liquid crystal molecules are so aligned in the first optically anisotropic layer that an inclined angle of each rod-like liquid crystal molecule varies according to the distances between the molecule and the surface of the second optically anisotropic layer.

4. The ellipsoidal polarizing plate as defined in claim 1, wherein the second optically anisotropic layer is a uniaxially stretched polymer film.

5. The ellipsoidal polarizing plate as defined in claim 1, wherein the second optically anisotropic layer is a uniaxially stretched cellulose ester film.

6. The ellipsoidal polarizing plate as defined in claim 1, wherein the first and second optically anisotropic layers are so arranged that the projection of the direction giving the maximum refractive index in the first optically anisotropic layer onto the layer plane is essentially perpendicular, on the same plane, to the direction giving the maximum refractive index in the second optically anisotropic layer.

7. The ellipsoidal polarizing plate as defined in claim 1, wherein the plate comprises the first optically anisotropic layer, the second optically anisotropic layer, the polarizing membrane and the transparent protective film in this order.

8. The ellipsoidal polarizing plate as defined in claim 1, wherein the second optically anisotropic layer and the polarizing membrane are so arranged that the direction giving the maximum refractive index in the second optically anisotropic layer is essentially perpendicular to the transmission axis of the polarizing membrane.

9. The ellipsoidal polarizing plate as defined in claim 1, wherein the second optically anisotropic layer and the polarizing membrane are so arranged that the direction giving the maximum refractive index in the second optically anisotropic layer is essentially parallel to the transmission axis of the polarizing membrane.

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10. A liquid crystal display comprising a liquid crystal cell of TN mode and two polarizing elements arranged on both sides of the liquid crystal cell, wherein at least one of the polarizing elements is an ellipsoidal polarizing plate comprising a first optically anisotropic layer, a second optically anisotropic layer, a polarizing membrane and a transparent protective film, wherein the first optically anisotropic layer has an angel of 5° to 85° between the direction giving the maximum refractive index and the layer plane, and wherein the second optically anisotropic layer is optically positive and uniaxial, and the second optically anisotropic layer has an angel of 0° to 5° between the direction giving the maximum refractive index and the layer plane.

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